FBIS DAILY REPORT CONTENTS

Latin America

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BRAZIL

Violence Reported in Sao Paulo Suburb; Four Hurt D 1
More Metalworkers Arrested D 1
Cardinal Arns Views Strike D 1

COLOMBIA

Reportage on Resolution of Embassy Crisis F 1
Final Agreement Document F 1
Seven Released at Airport F 2
Plane Departs for Cuba F 2
Commander Uno Interviewed [Havana International] F 2
Asencio to U.S. F 4
Diplomats Return to Bogota F 4
President Turbay Interviewed F 4
President's Speech to Nation F 6

PANAMA

New Ambassador Views Relations With U.S. N 1
Five Suspects Arrested in Bomb Explosions N 2
Further Details [STAR AND HERALD 26 Apr] N 2
TV Commentary Says Rescue Try Will Worsen Crisis N 2
Peoples Party Announces Election Participation N 3

CENTRAL AMERICA

COSTA RICA

Cuban Position Accepted on Refugee Redistribution P 1
Carazo Discusses Cubans Remaining in Costa Rica P 1
Investigation of Soviet Film Material Ends P 2

EL SALVADOR

Former Foreign Minister Beneke Murdered at Home P 2
Planning Minister's Home Attacked P 2
Violence in San Salvador Claims 15 Lives P 2
Bombings Reported P 3
Monsignor Rivera Views Violence, Church Occupation P 4
LP-28 Alleges Plan To Put D'Aubuisson in Power P 4
[EL INDEPENDIENTE 25 Apr]

HONDURAS

Winning Liberal Party, Junta Hold Meeting P 5
Arms Cache Discovered; 20 Nicaraguans Arrested P 6
[TIEMPO 21 Apr]

GUATEMALA

OAS Observers Term Elections 'Orderly' P 6
[PRENSA LIBRE 22 Apr]
Kidnapped Labor Leader Found Murdered P 7
Kidnapped Physician Slain P 8

NICARAGUA

LA PRENSA Workers Quit, Seek To Form New Paper P 8
Further Details P 9
Ramirez Address Rally on Robelo Resignation P 10
Ramirez Discusses Robelo, Chamorro Replacements P 12
Borge Interviewed on FSLN Role on State Council P 12
[LA PRENSA 20 Apr]

CUBA

GRANMA Rebuts U.S. Charges of Unilateral Action Q 1
Small Plane Arrives To Pick Up Refugees, Relatives Q 2
Over 700 Leave Q 2
Over 1,000 Boats Anchored Q 3
Castro Sends Solidarity Message to Khomeyni Q 3
Commentary Assails U.S. Military Action in Iran Q 4
Briefs: Alejo Carpentier Dies Q 5

VIOLENCE REPORTED IN SAO PAULO SUBURB; FOUR HURT

PY280208 Paris AFP in Spanish 2324 GMT 27 Apr 80 PY

[Text] Sao Paulo, 27 Apr (AFP)--Four persons were wounded and 30 arrested today in the Sao Bernardo district, a Sao Paulo suburb, when police intervened violently to disperse a group of about 100 metalworkers who have been on strike for 26 days. The report, which was disclosed by the solidarity committee of striking metalworkers, has so far been neither confirmed nor denied by police authorities.

According to the solidarity committee a group of 100 metalworkers was attacked by police as they were marching toward the Sao Bernardo church. By decision of the authorities, the striking metalworkers cannot hold any demonstrations or meetings in any of the districts making up the Sao Paulo industrial belt since the strike has been declared illegal by the labor courts [justicia de trabajo].

More Metalworkers Arrested

PY272213 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 27 Apr 80 p 1

[Text] Three more metalworkers were arrested yesterday in Sao Bernardo after having attended a meeting in the Nossa Senhora da Boa Viagem church, according to the director of the DOPS [Department of Political and Social Order], Romeu Tuma. They are Enilson Simoes de Moura (known as Alemao), Gilson Luiz Corea de Menezes and Jose Venancio de Souza. They will be tried, together with the former leaders of the Sao Bernardo metalworkers union who are already under arrest at the DOPS in accordance with Article 36 of the National Security Law. The Vila Euclides stadium and the municipality were occupied by the police yesterday.

Cardinal Arns Views Strike

PY251715 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes in Portuguese 0230 GMT 25 Apr 80

[Excerpts] The bishop of Sao Paulo, Cardinal Evaristo Paulo Arns, today expressed satisfaction over the permission given to metalworkers to hold an assembly in the Plaza of Sao Bernardo dos Campos. There is some light on the horizon, the cardinal said, referring to the permission as a promising and positive step.

Replying to the statement by President Figueiredo that the cardinal is inciting strikers in the ABC region, Bishop Arns recalled the declaration by the apostolic nuncio that they do not know who to hold responsible for the events, and so they have picked on the church [words indistinct].

The bishop of Santo, Andre Claudio Humme, has voiced his solidarity with Cardinal Arns, and during the assembly in Sao Bernardo today he said: Cardinal Arns is supporting your movement because he thinks it is just. He then added that they are trying to pit the church against the state in order to divert attention from the strike and the arrests.

The church does not intend to mediate in the conflict, but it does believe that the release of the metalworkers' leaders will be a demonstration of good will to resolve the deadlock. This remark was made by CNBB [National Conference of Brazilian Bishops] President Ivo Lorscheider in Brasilia after meeting with Minister Golbery do Couto e Silva.

REPORTAGE ON RESOLUTION OF EMBASSY CRISIS

Final Agreement Document

PA272003 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1847 GMT 27 Apr 80

[Letter to Erik Kobell, representative in Colombia of the International Red Cross dated 25 April 1980 from Colombian Foreign Minister Diego Uribe Vargas that served as final agreement between 19 April Movement commando unit and Colombian Government]

[Text] International Red Cross Committee, Attention Mr Erik Kobell.

The Colombian Government requests the cooperation of the International Red Cross in the supervision of the departure of the captors occupying the Embassy of the Dominican Republic in Bogota, along with several ambassadors whom they are keeping hostage, en route from the Dominican Republic Embassy to Eldorado Airport and then to appoint an official to accompany them to the city of Havana, where the rest of the hostages will be freed.

The trip will take place as follows:

1. Overland transportation from the Dominican Embassy to El Dorado airport in vehicles supplied by the Colombian Red Cross, following a properly established route protected by Colombian public forces from the door of the embassy to the stairs of the aircraft of the Cubana airline on the main airstrip at the El Dorado Airport.

2. Traveling on this overland route will be the captors, all of the hostages, the Colombian Government negotiators, a delegation of the OAS Inter-American Human Rights Commission, Mr Jose Manuel Rivas Sacconi and Mr Victor Sasson, the Cuban ambassador in Bogota and the delegate of the International Red Cross.

3. All the persons mentioned above will board the plane for their safety and then the following persons will proceed to alight from the airplane: the OAS delegates, the Colombian Government negotiators, Mr Jose Manuel Rivas Saccone, Mr Victor Sasson, Venezuelan Ambassador Virgilio Lovera, Israeli Ambassador Eliyahu Baraq, Egyptian Ambassador Salah 'Allubah, Mr Jose Maria Guzman and Mr Luis Valencia.

4. The aircraft belonging to the Cubana de Aviacion Airline, which will be located at the head of the airstrip at the airport, will fly the commercial route established between the Eldorado Airport of Bogota and the Jose Marti Airport in the city of Havana, at the orders of its respective commander, according to the international agreements of the International Civil Aviation Organization.

5. At the Jose Marti Airport in Havana, upon descending from the aircraft, all the hostages will be freed.

6. For the purposes of emigration and immigration, this ministry will issue the captors individual safe-conducts, for whose personal and direct delivery the cooperation of the International Red Cross is requested.

7. According to what was discussed with the Cuban ambassador in Bogota, everything relative to the carrying of weapons will be subjected to whatever is decided by the commander of the aircraft.

8. Likewise, according to the offer of the Cuban ambassador in Bogota, the aircraft of the Cubana airline will return on the same day to Bogota to bring back the freed hostages who so desire.

9. The captors agree to deliver to the International Red Cross degegate a sealed envelope containing instructions for deactivating and disconnecting the explosives which are in the Dominican Embassy, which will only be opened once the departure of the aircraft has taken place.

10. The government will take all safety measures for the evacuation of the embassy and the security of the persons who will move to the airport in line with the normal development of the operation.

Yours truly, Diego Uribe Vargas.

Seven Released at Airport

PA271458 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1420 GMT 27 Apr 80

[Text] Bogota, 27 Apr (EFE)--Sixteen guerrillas, 10 men and 6 women, and 11 hostages--8 of them ambassadors--have been protagonists in the final stage of a drama which for 61 days has held the attention of the people of Colombia and the government of this country.

These 27 persons departed this morning for Cuba, where the hostages will be released and from where the guerrillas of the M-19 will travel to a European country, possibly Austria. Out of the total of 18 hostages who left the Dominican Embassy this morning, 7 were released at Eldorado Airport in Bogota.

The five ambassadors who are traveling with the M-19 guerrillas are Ambassadors Diego Asencio of the United States, Ricardo Galan of Mexico, Angelo Acerbi of the Holy See, Jean Bourgeois of Switzerland and Geraldo do Nascimento of Brazil. Also traveling to Havana are Cuban Ambassador to Colombia Fernando Ravelo, former Colombian Foreign Minister Rivas Saconni, International Red Cross delegate Eric Kobell and several other unidentified persons.

The other six persons traveling to Cuba are the charges d'affaires of Bolivia and Paraguay and the consuls of Peru, Venezuela and the Dominican Republic. The photographer Jorge Guzman and social reporter Luis Valencia were also released.

Plane Departs for Cuba

PA271336 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1330 GMT 27 Apr 80

[Text] Bogota, 27 Apr (EFE)--The M-19 guerrillas who occupied the Dominican Embassy for 61 days left today at 1325 GMT for Cuba, together with their diplomatic hostages, aboard a Soviet-made jet sent by the Cuban Government. Approximately 40 persons are traveling aboard the plane.

Commander Uno Interviewed

PA280229 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 28 Apr 80

[Interview with Commander Uno, leader of the M-19 embassy seizure operation in Colombia, by special Radio Havana correspondent Pedro Martinez Pires, on board the Cubana de Aviacion plane flying the guerrillas and their hostages to Havana on 27 April--recorded]

[Text] [Question] Tell us what this operation has meant for the revolutionary M-19.

[Answer] For our movement, for the left in general, for all men fighting for democracy and for our entire people, it has meant stepping in the way of reactionary and regressive sectors. It has meant a victory by our entire people.

[Question] Do you feel the operation achieved its objectives?

[Answer] Although at first we thought the key was obtaining the release of Colombia's political prisoners, today, due to the guarantees obtained for our companions, and second, due to international and national charges that there is no democracy in Colombia, that human rights are violated in Colombia, that there is torture in Colombia and that political prisoners do exist there, we believe we have succeeded in this operation.

[Question] We are almost ready to land in Havana now. Could you tell us how many comprise the revolutionary command and how this operation was carried out?

[Answer] The Jorge Marco Zambrano guerrilla column includes 15 comrades, 6 women and 9 men.

[Question] One of your companions died in the operation. What was his name and age?

[Answer] The companion who died in action was 17 years old. His combat name was Camilo. Today we paid tribute to him and gave him a posthumous promotion from second official to first official of the organization.

[Question] How do you feel now, Commander Uno, after 2 months of occupation of the Dominican Embassy and after it has been acknowledged that this has been the biggest collective diplomatic kidnapping operation in the history of international diplomacy?

[Answer] Not only I, but all the other companions, feel great satisfaction. We leave convinced that we fulfilled our duty. We are willing to have our organization place us in the battlefield wherever they deem it necessary.

[Question] What does the M-19 aspire to? What does it want for Colombia?

[Answer] As our moto says, with the weapons, with the people, to power.

[Question] When did this organization emerge and why?

[Answer] Our organization emerged in 1970, on 19 April, when General Rojas Pinilla was cheated in the elections.

[Question] Could you tell us who Commander Uno is, what his age and profession is?

[Answer] [Words indistinct] I am 32 years old. In 1972 I graduated from the school of education science at Santiago de Cali University. (?Since then) I have been dedicated to the struggle for liberation.

[Question] How does the M-19 view Cuba's participation, Cuba's mediation, in this operation?

[Answer] We are immensely thankful. I am very satisfied with the participation of the Cuban Government and people. We believe that, above all, Cuba has shown the importance of international law and (?of aiding the) peoples. To the Colombian people: We are very happy and our organization will neither be silenced, nor seek refuge nor surrender. We will continue struggling.

Asencio to U.S.

PA271933 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1917 GMT 27 Apr 80

[Text] Bogota, 27 Apr (LATIN)--With the exception of U.S. Ambassador Diego Asencio, the diplomats who traveled today to Cuba with the M-19 guerrillas will be returning tonight to Bogota, the Red Cross has reported.

Carlos Martinez, Red Cross official, told the press that Asencio will be flown to his country on a special flight. The other former hostages, without specifying how many, are expected tonight in Bogota.

Diplomats Return to Bogota

PA280349 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0248 GMT 28 Apr 80

[Text] Bogota, 27 Apr (EFE)--Four ambassadors, two charges d'affaires and three consuls, who were taken today to Cuba by the M-19, returned to Bogota at 2127 (0227 GMT).

The group, which left this morning when the occupation of the Dominican Embassy concluded, partly dispersed in Havana, since Apostolic Nuncio Angelo Acerbi and U.S. Ambassador Diego Asencio left for Miami, while Mexican Ambassador Ricardo Galan went back to his country.

The M-19 group, which held the diplomats hostage for 61 days, remained in the Cuban capital from where it will presumably leave for the east in a few days.

The foreign officials returned in the same Cubana de Aviacion plane that took them to the island through the Cuban Government's "humanitarian" mission.

Ambassadors Carlos Pinto of Guatemala, Juan Bourgeois of Switzerland, Geraldo Eulalio do Nascimento de Silva of Brazil, and Leonard Pierre-Louis of Haiti arrived at Eldorado Airport, as did Bolivian and Paraguayan Charges d'Affaires Reinaldo del Carpio Jauregui and Oscar Gorostiaga, respectively, and the consuls of Peru, Alfredo Tejeda, Venezuela, Francisco Pacheco, and Guatemala, Roberto Castaneda Moraga. Several of them have announced they plan to return to their countries to inform their respective governments.

President Turbay Interviewed

PA271413 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1312 GMT 27 Apr 80

[Telephone interview with Colombian President Turbay Ayala on departure of M-19 guerrillas from Dominican Embassy--live]

[Text] Good morning, Mr President. The nation is today celebrating the happy ending of this episode. What can you report to the people of Colombia?

[Turbay Ayala] I can report that it has been resolved. This sorry situation created by the seizure of the Dominican Embassy by a subversive group on 27 February has been resolved without bloodshed, decorously and legally.

It demonstrates it is possible to solve within legal limits a situation so eminently delicate. At 2000 [0100 GMT] tonight, I will address the people of Colombia on television to discuss with them this trascendental incident in the life of the nation which has aroused so much national and international interest.

[Question] Mr President, are you satisfied by saying this drama was solved?

[Answer] More than satisfied.

[Question] Your Excellency, during the course of the episode of the seizure of the embassy, diverse national groups--such as the labor organizations--gave full support for the way you were handling this situation, as did the political groups. What is your opinion of the support given to the government during these difficult days?

[Answer] This support was decisive and made it possible for the government to handle the situation as it did.

[Question] Mr President, we would like to know if you have held any dialogue with President Fidel Castro, and if any precise instructions have been issued for receiving the guerrillas and their hostages?

[Answer] [Word indistinct] the guarantees for the diplomats who arrive over there. Others will remain in Bogota as of now. But some are going to Havana and are returning this very day. Therefore, I express gratitude for the cooperation given us by the Cuban Government.

[Question] Mr President, what was the role of the Human Rights Committee in solving this problem?

[Answer] [Word indistinct] of having been guarantors of the positions taken by the Colombian Government.

[Question] I wish to ask another question, very respectfully, Mr President. Can it be said that in this situation in the Dominican Embassy there were no victors or vanquished?

[Answer] It can be said that legal order was the victor. There was no need to move away from the framework of the Constitution and the laws. It is the biggest triumph ever obtained by the legal and democratic aspirations of our people. We waged a fierce battle which fortunately ended in the best way for defending what we have always been, a country which respects laws.

[Question] Mr President, can you inform the listeners of Radio Cadena Nacional if the guerrillas who are on board the Cuban airline plane are taking all of the hostage diplomats? Or are some remaining in Bogota?

[Answer] Some of the diplomats are remaining in Bogota: the ambassadors of Venezuela, the Dominican Republic, Egypt, Israel. The others will travel to Cuba. Several of them will return this very day and others will travel to their respective countries.

[Question] Mr President, the plane's departure was scheduled for 0700. However, it remains parked on the main airstrip at Eldorado Airport. It is being said there will be another dialogue. Is this true?

[Answer] It is possible they are meeting over there. The delegates of the government are there--Drs Camilo Jimenez and Ramiro Zambrano. Therefore, it is possible they are holding a meeting. But in any event, let me express to the governments of the nations with hostage ambassadors, over your network, our happiness over the liberation of the hostages, who endured the long and unfair captivity. Also, fortunately, there has been some compensation from the way this was resolved without bloodshed, which constitutes a victory for Colombia and its institutions as well as for the whole world, not having set a precedent that could have harmed the nation and the world.

[Question] Thank you, Mr President. The nation will be waiting for your address to the nation tonight at 2000, just as you have announced to Radio Cadena Nacional. I also wish to comment that in the vicinity of the embassy, as you ought to know, there exists a true atmosphere of celebration over the peaceful way this episode, which has held the attention of Colombia and the world, has been resolved. Very nice of you, Mr President.

President's Speech to Nation

PA280328 Bogota Domestic Service in Spanish 0107 GMT 28 Apr 80

[Address to the nation by Colombian President Julio Cesar Turbay Ayala to mark release of hostages from Dominican Embassy in Bogota--presumably recorded]

[Text] Compatriots: In a convulsed and agitated world like this one, it is satisfying for a leader to give good news to the national and international public. It would be enough to say that the most serious diplomatic kndnapping in the world has been resolved, as was promised by the Colombian Government, in a bloodless, decorous and juridical manner.

These words represent, in their turn, the greatest triumph of the rules of law in this country of laws, which since the initial days of independence to the present has proclaimed, with proud simplicity, its respect for juridical order.

Of course, this news has an importance which transcends our borders and involves international interest. Close to 20 distinguished diplomats of countries friendly to ours stoically suffered through a long and arduous captivity. The manner in which this vexing case was solved obviously would either strengthen or weaken terrorism with all its dramatic sequels.

Happily, subversion received no stimulus and therefore, peace was not undermined, nor was a fatal precedent set. The marketing of diplomats was not promoted. There was no bargaining with anyone's life. An impossible deal over prisoners was not accepted.

I understand that with the vast audience which is presumably listening with interest to this speech, it is indispensable to know what the agreements were which finally led to such a fortunate ending. There were 60 days of continuous concern. It was certainly not easy for a government which speaks the language of law to make itself understood by a de facto movement. To seek an approximation of these opposing positions was the greatest difficulty. However, I must say that in addition to this, it was of great importance that the dialogue should have taken place between Colombians, since not even our terrorists can escape, in a search for solutions, feeling themselves included in the legacy of honor and glory that are condensed in the essential values of our nationality.

The government has the constitutional obligation of repressing uprisings and combatting subversion. But it found a single affinity with the terrorists who assaulted the embassy--that which comes from the common nature of Colombians. This explains why this settlement could not easily be achieved in other countries, which are probably more civilized and powerful than ours, but in which the juridical vocation of the people does not have the profound roots which characterize this beautiful fatherland, of which all its children are truly proud. In the national area, it was much more than a triumph of the government, it was a triumph for Colombia and as such we must record it.

It would be unjust and even mean for us to fail to thank the Inter-American Human Rights Commission for its valuable and firm cooperation. There was an exchange of letters of importance and scope between that prestigious organization and the Colombian Government.

The commission served as the guarantor of the reaffirmation of principles which are familiar to us and which are contained in our constitutional and legal provisions, and which are reaffirmed in the international commitments which Colombia has freely acquired.

This attitude of the commission was enthusiastically received by the occupants of the embassy, who saw a strengthening of their aspirations of seeking, finally within the legal framework, protection for their comrades in prison. They did not leave the embassy in humiliation, but with the satisfaction of having concerned themselves, to the limits of their possibilities, for the members of the subversive movement to which they belong and with hope in the honest conduct of Colombian justice. I do not know how their position will be received in the confused world of subversion, but I can say that they waged a tenacious struggle on behalf of their comrades in criminal activity. That they were unable to be successful in impossible demands is another matter.

The government had to safeguard the lives of the hostages, but it also had to safeguard the integrity of the Colombian state. To us, it is impossible to destroy, under any kind of threat, the juridical patrimony which Colombia has patiently and laboriously accumulated in 160 years of life as a republic.

On several occasions, I have said that democratic institutions will not be dissolved in my hands, and I have said that I will turn over to my successor unblemished those institutions which I swore to defend when I took over the Presidency of the Republic.

At all times, the assailants of the diplomatic mission were told that the government could not release prisoners who are being judged by the competent judges, on whom their fate depends. I am not willing to invade the spheres of the state that the Constituion has conferred to the legislators and the judges. The executive has its own sphere. It will not cross its limits. Colombians can be certain that the Presidency of the Republic will not violate the Constituion or the laws and that with patience, but with firmness, it will authorize the defense of the lives, the honor and property of all the inhabitants of the country.

The government is without a doubt giving priority to public peace and will spare no effort to strengthen it and thereby to be able to renounce the emergency procedures. To do this constitutes the desired goal of this administration. Without signing pacts of any kind, but rather offering to meet all its obligations to the extent permitted by those who so far have been fighting the state by violence, I invite them to put down their arms and to put their intelligence and their energy to Colombia's service. Surely their position as the opposition will give them better results than the more difficult and bloody path of subversion. I hope that in the shelter of the favorable conditions which have been created, we will be able to complete a new phase in the process of pacification to which the government is committed.

In the same manner in which the services of the Inter-American Human Rights Commission was requested, we appealed to the International Red Cross, a meritorious institution which has given humanitarian cooperation and in addition was made responsible for transporting the hostages and their captors from the diplomatic mission to the international airport. Similarly, there was an exchange of letters with the Association of Human Rights headed by Prof Luis (Abirelli), which, along with the aforementioned organizations, will be in charge of overseeing the trials and ensuring strict fulfillment of all procedural guarantees.

Therefore, a decorous settlement was reached, one which can be summarized in the exchange of letters between Foreign Minister Diego Uribe Vargas and the president of the Inter-American Human Rights Commission, Prof Tom Farer.

The following is the text of Uribe's letter:

His Excellency Tom Farer, president of the Inter-American Human Rights Commission and other members:

Your Excellency: As you know, Colombia is a country with a long democratic tradition in which there is respect for human rights, the defense of which is incorporated into the national legislation. Similarly, the republic has signed international commitments at worldwide and hemispheric levels which oblige it to respect the supreme dignity of human beings.

Taking the aforementioned circumstances into account, the government decided, through the Foreign Ministry which I head, to extend to the Inter-American Human Rights Commission an invitation to visit the country and carry out here the functions which are proper to that prestigious organization.

It is the government's greatest concern to see that civilian and military authorities do not commit abuses of authority at any level. Naturally, it does not rule out the possibility that aides and subordinates might exceed the limits of their constitutional and legal obligations. To be tolerant of such possible violations would be a serious fault which the government would never commit. Consequently, I can say to the members of the Inter-American Human Rights Commission that no charge will fail to be investigated and no one found guilty will go unpunished.

In inviting you to visit Colombia, the government proves that it is determined to fully comply with the obligations incurred under the Inter-American Human Rights charter and also to permit the commission to become acquainted with the nonrestricted protions of all trials which it chooses to examine in order to allow it to verify that they are being carried out legally.

Within the context of this letter, the government agrees to have the Inter-American Human Rights Commission and its authorized representatives freely exercise, within the confines of the law, throughout the national territory, all its functions and in addition, the following activities:

A. To have complete freedom to talk with lawyers representing the persons who are being tried by verbal courts-martial and all those who are subject to military trials.

B. To observe, under the law, the verbal courts-martial and make sure that procedural guarantees are being followed and that the trials are taking place legally. In addition, the commission will have the power to formulate to the competent authorities all the comments which it considers appropriate to avoid any violation of the rights of those under trial.

C. Guarantee the transportation to the airport and the departure from the country of all those who are under interrogation or who are acquitted in those verbal courts-martial when these persons so desire.

D. To point out any irregularity which might occur in the trials and study all complaints sent to it with regard to the trials to the effect that the charges made were not duly proved, or that the evidence had been obtained by means which constitute a clear violation of human rights. The objective of this is that if such violations are proved, the accused may challenge the validity of said trials.

E. Inform itself of the course of the investigations into abuses of authority and reports of specific charges of violations of human rights in order that those responsible for these repugnant acts may be punished with the full weight of the law.

This letter reaffirms the government's irrevocable decision to honor its international commitments, which are in line with its internal legal obligations. On the aforegoing basis, Your Excellencies, the members of the Inter-American Human Rights Committee, if you so desire, you may serve as guarantors before the occupants of the Dominican Embassy, of the government's strict compliance with all the clauses of this letter which, as far as the executive is concerned, is effective immediately.

The government continues to give the release of the hostages the same priority as always. We are awaiting a reply from Your Excellencies with the conviction that the Inter-American Human Rights Commission will find satisfactory all the facilities that the Colombian Government is offering for the full fulfillment of its duties.

God keep Your Excellencies, [signed] Diego Uribe Vargas, minister of foreign affairs.

The reply sent by the commission reproduces the text of the government's letter and adds: I am pleased to express to Your Excellency, in reply, that the Inter-American Human Rights Commission fully accepts the proposal formulated by the enlightened Government of Colombia in the transcribed note.

The commission which I head feels that the activities listed in that note are compatible with the functions which the Inter-American Human Rights Convention has assigned to the commission and with the obligations which, by virtue of that instrument, have been incurred by the Colombian Government.

In this regard, it is my pleasure to confirm to Your Excellency that the commission--directly and through the delegations to be assigned by the lawyers which make up the Executive Secretariat--will freely carry out, in conformity with Colombian laws and the bylaws of the commission, the activities listed in Your Excellency's note. In addition, the commission is willing to serve as a guarantor, before the occupants of the Dominican Embassy, of the strict compliance by the Colombian Government with all the clauses of Your Excellency's note, which will go into effect immediately.

I take this opportunity to express to Your Excellency my highest and most distinguished consideration. [Signed] Tom Farer, president.

As can be seen from the letters read, the government did not step outside the obligatory constitutional framework which also guarantees its international obligations.

I could not conclude this message to the nation without expressing my thanks to the governments which offered solidarity to me and which had confidence in the handling of this very complex case, while I bore on my shoulders the heavy burden of handling it. I also owe gratitude to the hostages for their admirable behavior and for the influence which they must certainly have exerted over their captors. I apologize if they believe that the government was responsible for prolonging their captivity. I can assure them that the government acted with the same interest in the preservation of their lives, with their release and with the interests of the international community as in the integrity of the Colombian state. With them, with their families, with their governments and their countries, we can celebrate the happy end of this painful affair.

Domestically, I owe gratitude to my aides, to the armed forces for their exemplary behavior, to the press-without excluding the opposition press--which silenced its batteries while this overwhelming problem was being settled, to the Colombian people, to their political leaders, to the church, to the economic organizations, to the labor unions, to the former presidents of the republic and above all, to a Colombian with whom I daily shared the anguish of this lengthy ordeal--Alberto Lleras Camargo.

NEW AMBASSADOR VIEWS RELATIONS WITH U.S.

PA250500 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2315 GMT 24 Apr 80

[Text] Juan Jose Amado III, Panama's new ambassador to the United States, said today that the existing differences between Panama and the United States, with regard to the implementation of the Torrijos-Carter treaties, are not permanent problems.

During an interview with Televisora Nacional, Ambassador Amado admitted, however, that we must make a firm effort to safeguard Panamanian sovereignty and that this can be done with good understanding and communications.

Panama and the United States must be able to solve their existing problems, Amado said.

[Begin recording] [Question] Mr Ambassador, under what conditions or circumstances do you believe that you are assuming your new post as Panama's ambassador to the Carter administration?

[Answer] This is a very interesting question which must be analyzed from two points of view. In the first place, let us talk of economic matters. The embassy in Washington will try to promote U.S. investments in Panama and also to place Panamanian products in that country. With regard to [word indistinct] aspects, we believe that we must be able to increase much more the cultural relations existing between the two countries as well as exchanges in sporting activities. We believe that an important task will be to help the people of the two countries to know each others' history and culture. This should create good relations between the two nations.

We also will consider political relations, mainly with regard to the Torrijos-Carter treaties. These treaties are being implemented; we know that problems have appeared in the final implementation of the documents, but we do not believe that they cannot be overcome. We can work closely with the Panamanian team, so that problems which may emerge and matters for discussion can attain their final objective, which is the complete observance of the treaties and the complementary aspects of the same.

[Question] Mr Ambassador, do you have any special message for President Jimmy Carter?

[Answer] When we present credentials--we are awaiting the final confirmation acceptance by the U.S. Government--we shall present the main and fundamental concept which is the improvement of relations.

I want to emphasize that improving relations involves the economic, social and political fields. We believe that this is the most important message we want to convey to the U.S. people and we also hope that this feeling will be reciprocated by the North Americans toward Panama.

[Question] Finally, Mr Ambassador, to what extent do you believe that the protested unilateral interpretation of the treaties by the United States is a problem which can be solved?

[Answer] Many of these situations which have emerged with regard to the implementation of the treaties do not necessarily mean that the problems are of a permanent nature. We also believe that a series of measures are being taken within a situation which has existed for many decades and we believe that the process of changing this system which has lasted for several generations will present difficulties. We must make a firm effort, so that Panama's sovereignty and honesty are not harmed. With a good understanding and communications, we should solve the problems pending.

FIVE SUSPECTS ARRESTED IN BOMB EXPLOSIONS

PA250414 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0110 GMT 25 Apr 80

[Text] Panama City, 24 Apr (ACAN-EFE)--Panamanian security authorities today arrested five persons on charges that they were involved in the explosion of four Molotov cocktails in the past 15 days in the town of Concepcion, in the western part of the country, on the Costa Rican border.

Three of the bombs exploded on Tuesday in two government banks (Caja de Ahorros and the National Bank) and in a water tank. They caused no casualties and only slight property damage.

The first Molotov bomb was activated 15 days ago in Concepcion.

Judicial sources indicated that investigations are continuing in order to identify the masterminds and determine whether there were political motives to the incidents.

Further Details

PA261535 Panama City STAR AND HERALD in English 26 Apr 80 p 1

[From "Local Highlighs" column]

[Text] Six "Chiricanos" are under arrest, facing possible charges of terrorism, as a result of a series of bomb blasts which rocked several ofrice buildings this week in La Concepcion, district of Bugaba in the Chiriqui Province. Two of the men confessed that the explosions caused by home-made bombs had political ramifications, and plans called for additional bombs to be exploded Monday at La Concepcion High School, other government offices and at the National Guard headquarters in Bugaba.

TV COMMENTARY SAYS RESCUE TRY WILL WORSEN CRISIS

PA261426 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2315 GMT 25 Apr 80

[Mario Velasquez commentary]

[Excerpts] The failure of the military operation to rescue the hostages in the U.S. Embassy in Tehran, announced in somber tones by President Carter, is a new and dangerous ingredient to the multiple factors in the grave international crisis stemming from the occupation of the embassy by Islamic students last 4 November.

Following the tradition of public courage of U.S. presidents, President Carter assumed full responsibility for executing the operation and its subsequent failure. The failure of the military operation, surrounded by evident signs of incompetence in its execution, constitutes a severe blow to U.S. prestige, to Washington's diplomacy, to the already remote possibilities of immediate release of the 50 hostages remaining in the Tehran embassy and, above all, a demolishing blow to Mr Carter's political future.

The development of the crisis throughout this nearly 6-month period shows the limitations of a superpower such as the United States to cope with a problem of this kind because political steps have not yielded results, economic sanctions do not appear to be achieving anything either and the military alternatives are extremely limited, not only for tactical reasons but also because the balance of forces in the Persian Gulf area and in the Middle East is adverse to U.S. interests.

In other words, the United States has been cornered vis-a-vis the crisis of its relations with Iran. It is logical to think that Washington had to resort to military action after having justified it when negotiations for the release of the hostages became stalemated.

The military move, however, carried a high political risk, as its failure has proved. However the Iranian Government has stubbornly supported the Islamic students in their steadfast position of not releasing the hostages. Khomeyni's government has been linked from the beginning with this unprecedented act of terrorism. Because of the particular circumstance, as in this case, a legitimate government has backed and encouraged a criminal act such as this.

Whatever the responsibility of the United States in the abuses and crimes of 34 years of Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlevi's regime--and to be sure, the United States is greatly responsible--nothing justifies the method chosen by Khomeyni in disavowing international law and inviolability of embassies and cruelly keeping hostages 50 U.S. citizens who next 6 May will have been shut up in the Tehran embassy for half a year.

A basic sense of international political realities, however, indicated that a military action, no matter how hateful or how high a political cost, would have to be a lightning, extremely efficient move to achieve the objectives of the operation, in this case, the release of the 50 North Americans unjustly detained in the Tehran embassy. But it did not turn out this way and the military rescue operation was aborted in the initial stage, with the Carter government reaping the negative balance of a torrent of domestic and foreign criticism, provoking the indignation of the influential Islamic world, involving Egypt even further in this problem and, what is even worse, failing blatantly in liberating the unfortunate U.S. hostages.

Carter's decision to activate the military operation appears to also have stemmed from internal political needs. Although his nomination in the democratic party appears up to now to be more or less secure, Republican presidential candidate Ronald Reagan appears to be becoming each day a candidate much more difficult to defeat in the November elections.

Carter's problem is not so much the challenge of Senator Kennedy, but the mounting danger of Reagan's political force. Perhaps President Carter decided to make this surprise attack part of a political play that would have assured his reelection if the military operation had resulted in the release of the hostages. If it had been this way, the people of North America would be at this very instant celebrating the military operation as a demonstration of strength and power and Carter would have gained the applause and the sympathy of this nation, which so much admires this kind of demonstration of national force.

Of course the failure of the military operation will have devastating results on Carter's political future by deepening the international crisis, ridiculing U.S. military power and prolonging the agony of the 50 hostages.

PEOPLES PARTY ANNOUNCES ELECTION PARTICIPATION

PA262121 Panama City LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 24 Apr 80 p 5-A

[From "La Libreta de los Reporteros" column by J.E.B.]

[Text] The Peoples Party has announced that it will participate with all its forces in the September elections. They do not believe in abstentionism. Renato...! [Dr Renato Pereira, secretary general of the Popular Broad Front Party]

COSTA RICA

CUBAN POSITION ACCEPTED ON REFUGEE REDISTRIBUTION

PA260221 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 26 Apr 80

[Text] During the negotiations held in the past few hours, Costa Rica accepted Cuba's position that Costa Rica must not become a center for the redistribution of Cuban dissidents. The right that resident and nationalized exiles have to go and live in any other country was reiterated.

In the event of a failure in the negotiations that Cuba is holding with the countries that have offered to accept dissidents, whereby these countries would send planes directly to Havana, the government of Fidel Castro will not put conditions on Costa Rica on the sending of refugees.

If that situation arises, in the next 72 hours Costa Rica must present a formal itinerary of the planes that will transport the dissidents. The negotiations carried out in Havana between the Costa Rican Government and Cuban Foreign Ministry officials were aimed at reestablishing the airlift to evacuate the refugees at the Peruvian Embassy.

There was no definite agreement on this, but it is expected that the Fidel Castro government in the next 72 hours will adopt a decision that will allow the continuation of the humanitarian action, said Carlos Francisco Aguilar Calderon, chief of the Foreign Ministry's office of counsel.

CARAZO DISCUSSES CUBANS REMAINING IN COSTA RICA

PA260443 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 26 Apr 80

[Excerpt] President Rodrigo Carazo has commented on the way that Cuban refugees will be distributed, referring to the 10,800 Cubans who will have left Havana and who in the past few days have left for Costa Rica using the airlink between this country and Cuba.

The President said that 3,500 Cubans will go to the United States, 300 will remain in Costa Rica, 200 will go to Ecuador, 150 have been accepted by Belgium, 500 reportedly will have a permanent home in Canada, and another 500 reportedly will be sent to Australia. Venezuela has also shown an interest in them and has said it can shelter 300 Cuban refugees.

Spain also came forward in this campaign of solidarity and has said it can receive 500. Meanwhile, [number indistinct] of the total 10,800 Cubans would be sent to countries that have not yet announced a quota.

The president of the republic has said that the Cubans who will be staying in Costa Rica will be those who have relatives or friends in the country. He said that preference will be given to family groups. Efforts will be made to determine the moral, social, religious and political conditions of those persons before allowing them to remain in the country.

He said that families composed of a mother, father and two or three children could remain in Costa Rica. President Carazo has said that some of the 800 Cubans who have arrived in the country have already left for Peru and others are leaving for Spain.

This is more or less the status of the 10,800 Cubans who several days ago sought refuge in the Peruvian Embassy in Havana.

INVESTIGATION OF SOVIET FILM MATERIAL ENDS

PA252137 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1730 GMT 25 Apr 80

[Text] The report on the large amount of Soviet film material brought into the country from Cuba which was confiscated by the government, under suspicion that it might be subversive material, is over. For several weeks a group of presidential office and Foreign Ministry officials saw the film and analyzed it. Only three were found to be of doubtful content that might be subversive.

Although the investigation is over, it has not been disclosed to the press because it will first be presented to the president. However, it has been learned that everything seems to indicate that little evidence of subversive material has been found.

The film, projectors and other film equipment confiscated from the Soviet Embassy will be returned, it was learned. Although three of the films are of doubtful content, it has not been fully verified that they are subversive, a government spokesman reported.

EL SALVADOR

FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER BENEKE MURDERED AT HOME

PA280042 Paris AFP in Spanish 0022 GMT 28 Apr 80

[Text] San Salvador, 27 Apr (AFP)--Walter Beneke, former Salvadoran foreign minister, who was recently appointed ambassador to Japan, was killed today by unidentified persons at his home in western San Salvador.

Beneke, who was 49 years old, was a former education minister and had served previously as ambassador to Japan.

Planning Minister's Home Attacked

PA260428 San Salvador Radio Cadena Central in Spanish 1817 GMT 25 Apr 80

[Text] Five unidentified men, who had previously assaulted a municipal police officer in the old Cuscatlan city hall, attacked the home of Planning Minister Roberto Salazar with machinegun fire.

The attack was repelled by the guards on duty in Salazar's home. The gunmen tried to escape but their jeep, license plate number 6370, crashed against a light pole. A detective who was passing by at the time of the incident pulled out his gun and was fatally shot by the gunmen. The detective was identified as Manuel de Jesus Rivas. The shooting took place in La Sultana's district.

VIOLENCE IN SAN SALVADOR CLAIMS 15 LIVES

PA270410 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 27 Apr 80

[Carlos Samayoa Martinez report from El Salvador; all figures as heard]

[Excerpts] The house of a military officer in San Salvador was attacked a few minutes ago. We are talking about Col Agustin Martinez Varela, who, fortunately, was not home at the time. His relatives were, but they managed to escape uninjured. One of the guards, nevertheless, was killed.

Three National Guardsmen are usually posted at the house of Col Agustin Martinez Varela. One of them died when his house, located in northern San Salvador, was machinegunned this afternoon.

This death raises to 15 the number of dead in San Salvador and its neighboring areas today. As you may recall, this morning we reported that five bodies had been found in [word indistinct]. Two others were found near the government center. Six additional bodies were found this afternoon in Mejicanos. This adds up to a total of 15 bodies in the capital alone, as part of the violence prevalent in this Central American country.

As may be recalled, about 1 month ago there was an attempt to kidnap Colonel Martinez, but one of his sons fired at the attackers, and prevented the abduction.

Bombings Reported

PA270411 Paris AFP in Spanish 1840 GMT 26 Apr 80

[Text] San Salvador, 26 Apr (AFP)--The tense calm which has prevailed in San Salvador in the past few days was disrupted again today by the explosion of two bombs this morning and the storming of two densely populated neighborhoods, Amatepec and Credisa, in the eastern part of this city, by the clandestine Revolutionary Peoples Army (ERP).

The bombs woke up the residents of the capital, but caused no casualties, although they did cause some property damage to residences located in western [as received] San Salvador.

The Amatepec and Credisa neighborhoods were taken over by a squad of the Peoples Revolutionary Bloc (BPR), which placed barricades of buses with flat tires on the access routes to these areas. When the authorities arrived in the area there were confrontations, but no casualties were reported.

It was also reported that a customs policeman was machinegunned from a moving automobile while he was on guard at the general treasury office in the commercial section of the capital.

Meanwhile, the rural areas of the country continue to be the main sites of the confrontations and of most of the recent acts of violence. An evangelist pastor was killed on Friday as he was leaving his home in Ciudad Arce, 45 km west of here. His assailants are unknown. In Guazapa, north of San Salvador, two leftists were killed in a confrontation with the army, while in Santa Ana, west of here, a student was killed by a group of civilians.

It was reported here today that the top leaders of the Salvadoran Army met tonight to analyze the situation and to define the guidelines for maintaining national order.

Local papers today highlighted the exodus of Salvadorans toward Belize and Mexico, where entire families from this country have settled in view of the political instability existing in El Salvador. For its part, the Salvadoran Manufacturers Association (ASI) today released a communique in which it analyzes the difficult situation which the country is experiencing.

In the document, the industrialists reaffirm their support for the democratic reforms being promoted by the government junta and said they will demand that the junta fulfill promises that "law and order will prevail in El Salvador."

On another subject, according to a report published here by EL DIARIO DE HOY, as of today the relatives of kidnapped South African Ambassador Archibald Gardner Dunn had collected only $500,000 to pay his ransom.

The ambassador was kidnapped by the Farabundo Marti Peoples Liberation Forces (FPL) on 28 November. His captors demand the publication of communiques in 102 countries in exchange for his release.

Now they are apparently negotiating with the family for the payment of a ransom, but according to the report, the amount they are demanding is very high and the ambassador's relatives have not yet been able to obtain it.

The Dunn family sold its property in Pretoria, collected money from friends and managed to round up $500,000 which they are offering to the kidnappers, the report said.

MONSIGNOR RIVERA VIEWS VIOLENCE, CHURCH OCCUPATION

PA272211 Paris AFP in Spanish 1738 GMT 27 Apr 80

[Excerpt] San Salvador, 27 Apr (AFP)--Msgr Arturo Rivera, apostolic administrator of San Salvador dioceses, disclosed during his sermon today that violence in the country from 1 January through 15 April had taken 1,102 lives.

The metropolitan chathedral was occupied by a group of youths minutes before the beginning of the Mass in which the homily is normally read. Therefore, Monsignor Rivera had to hold the religious service at the Sacred Heart Basilica in western San Salvador.

The armed youths ordered Catholics who were waiting for the Mass to begin to leave the church. They said their operation is being staged as a prelude to the 1 May demonstration. They also announced that other churches would be occupied in the course of the day, in San Salvador as well as in the interior of the country.

In his sermon, Monsignor Rivera condemned the occupation and said the cathedral should not be used for political purposes. In addition, he said that the Catholic Church hopes that violence in the country will decline and that dialogue will prevail.

"The 1,102 persons killed in acts of violence," he said, "belonged to both conflicting groups, the rightists and the leftists."

Rivera said that many peasants are being forcibly evicted from their homes by the authorities in the course of raids and, in some cases, by leftist groups when the peasants refuse to cooperate. Rivera praised the slain Archbishop Romero and called on the faithful to follow his example. Finally, he thanked the University of El Salvador for conferring an honorary doctorate on the prelate and noted that other acts in Romero's honor have taken place in the country and abroad.

LP-28 ALLEGES PLAN TO PUT D'AUBUISSON IN POWER

PA271349 San Salvador EL INDEPENDIENTE in Spanish 25 Apr 80 p 2

[Text] The 28 February Peoples Leagues (LP-28), in a special communique sent to EL INDEPENDIENTE, denounces a self-coup invented by the rightist forces which would take Maj Roberto d'Aubuisson to the Presidency.

The communique states the following:

"The growing and uncontainable advance of the popular struggles has begun to make the oligarchy and imperialism tremble, as they see thwarted their hopes that the military-Christian Democratic junta can continue to guarantee the defense of their petty interests and, more importantly for them, to contain the advance of popular organizations toward the conquest of a democratic revolutionary government that responds to the aspirations of all the people.

"It is in this context that the military junta and imperialism, in their desperation, are planning a self-coup d'etat which would 'untie' their hands and allow them to carry out repression to an even greater extent and, through a barefaced genocidal action, attempt to annihilate the popular revolutionary movement. In this way, the imperialists would be attempting to place in power the psychopathic assassin, Major d'Aubuisson, who recently felt obliged to go to the U.S. Senate to present his proposed plan for the extermination of the Salvadoran people, which had been approved by U.S. Ambassador Robert White, who has already manifested his interventionist, repressive and antipopular policy on several occasions.

"These genocidal plans being formulated by the dominant classes in our country include a plan for intervening at the National University, as has been clearly stated by the fascist members of the army and primarily by Duarte, the opportunistic Christian Democrat.

"The LP-28 expresses, in the face of these attempts at genocide by the imperialists, our firm conviction and willingness to fight to the last as the only means of defeat any type of domination. We also call on all popular sectors to join with us to continue the heroic popular struggles with high morale and dedication and with the conviction that this is the only way to achieve the definitive liberation of our people."

HONDURAS

WINNING LIBERAL PARTY, JUNTA HOLD MEETING

PA262205 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0030 GMT 26 Apr 80

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 25 Apr (ACAN-EFE)--The leaders of the central executive council of the Liberal Party, the winner in last Sunday's elections for a constituent assembly, held a meeting with the military government junta Friday.

The afternoon meeting, which lasted several hours, was held at the general headquarters of the armed forces. Access to the press was denied and the persons who participated in the dialogue refused to release any information.

The Liberals have been holding meetings since Wednesday with their closest runners-up in the elections, the traditional National Party, apparently to look into the possibility of electing a president by the constituent assembly or of calling a direct election [eleccion de primer grado].

The newly emergent National Innovation and Unity Party could tip the political scales. It has only three deputies but can assure victory to motions of either of the groups. The party, along with several popular sectors, is opposed to an indirect election [eleccion de segundo grado].

The military is of the same opinion, but recognizes the assembly's prerogative, in addition to writing a new constitution, to take the initial steps to organize the other branches of the government.

It is not known if the military officials in private expressed their position in a more severe tone than in the public declaration 3 days before the elections.

It is also not known if the meeting was only held to guarantee to the Liberals that their moves will take place in peace since in the opinion of many observers, the declaration of the armed forces implied a coup threat if their will was countervened and instead of a direct election, an indirect election is held.

ARMS CACHE DISCOVERED; 20 NICARAGUANS ARRESTED

PA252119 San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 21 Apr 80 p 2

[Excerpt] More than 20 Nicaraguans were captured over the weekend in various operations carried out by Honduran investigation forces. According to a police source, a large number of these arrests was linked with the weapons found in the house in Florencia neghborhood. National Investigations Directorate (DNI) agents had found machineguns, grenades and other weapons in the house which could only be used by military forces.

Residents of the neighborhood told TIEMPO that the house had previously been occupied by Dr Noter and his wife, who are well-known evangelical pastors in Tegucigalpa but that it was later occupied by an American family whose names they did not know.

It has been reported that about 15 people who are linked with those captured were able to escape the police operation. The police continue to search for them.

GUATEMALA

OAS OBSERVERS TERM ELECTIONS 'ORDERLY'

PA260232 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 22 Apr 80 p-6, 63

[Text] OAS observers said during their meeting with members of the electoral council that the elections held in Guatemala were representative, orderly and deserving of respect.

Mario Lopez Escobar, Paraguayan ambassador to the OAS, and Rodolfo Pizza, Costa Rican permanent representative to the United Nations, informed the council of their observations during the electoral process.

They had previously said that the third observer, Humberto Gomez Bacas, had not been present yesterday afternoon because he was preparing for his return trip.

The Places They Visited

Lopez Escobar was the first one to speak. He explained again that his visit to Guatemala was as a personal observer and not to pass judgment on the Guatemalan people or government.

He said that the three of them had agreed to visit different towns where they spoke with the candidates and local officials in order to have a better understanding of the process.

He added that they visited predominantly Indian towns and places where most of the people are of Spanish origin. They visited small and large towns in order to better oversee the process.

They said that at no time had they seen any problems which could lead to interference in the development of the elections.

On the contrary, he said in conclusion, we saw that even in the most isolated districts the people were determined to consolidate or participate in the civic event which guarantees the democratic system.

Rodolfo Pizza then asked the members of the council if they had received any protest or complaints from the parties which had participated in the elections.

Walfre Orlando del Valle, president of the electoral council, said that there had been only one complaint and that it had been attended to promptly in order not to obstruct the elections.

He added that as was to be expected, there had been some small incidents but that they had been solved by the municipal authorities.

The Representatives Speak

Later the OAS observers had the opportunity to speak with representatives of the political parties represented in the council, as well as with the Council of State and the National Congress, which said that they were satisfied with the electoral results.

National Liberation Movement (MNL) Representative Rudy Fuentes Sandoval said that the process had been carried out cleanly and honestly and that this will create greater confidence among the Guatemalan people.

Meanwhile, Guatemalan Christian Democracy (DCG) Representative Marco Vinicio Cerezo Sierra said that the first stage of the electoral process had developed without incidents of any kind and that he expected the final vote count will abide by the law and respect the votes cast by the people.

Democratic Institutional Party (PID) Representative Rene Arenas Gutierrez said that his party was satisifed with the elections and that it had been carried out cleanly, according to the wishes of President Lucas Garcia and abiding by the laws as is proper in a democratic system.

Revolutionary Party (PR) Representative Carlos Rodriguez Cruz also expressed his satisfaction with the elections and with the participation of the three OAS observers.

Congressional Representative Danilo Lopez Godoy and Council delegate Mardoqueo Rodriguez said that the elections had once again consolidated the democratic regime which has always been favored by Guatemalans.

We Must Help Democracy

Rodolfo Pizza Escalante told newsmen that he could not give any opinion on the manner in which the elections had developed.

In the first place, he said we (the three observers) have not met yet in order to arrive at final conclusions regarding the process.

He said that according to his observations he will present a positive report to his organization, once the Guatemalan Government has approved his report. We shall also report on the negative incidents, but this will be in a constructive manner in order to contribute still more to the democratic system operating in Guatemala.

KIDNAPPED LABOR LEADER FOUND MURDERED

PA252015 Guatemala City Radio Nuevo Mundo in Spanish 1200 GMT 25 Apr 80

[Text] The body of labor leader Claudio Roberto Ramirez, secretary general of the latex trade union, was found near the electrical plant on the road to the Pacific. He had been kidnapped 2 days ago in the afternoon by several armed men who shoved him into a vehicle without a license plate, his fellow workers reported to the media.

According to reports, Ramirez, who was called [words indistinct, showed signs of torture and having had his hands tied. He also showed signs of having been strangled. Writs of habeas corpus filed by his fellow workers were unsuccessful.

Kidnapped Physician Slain

PA270542 Guatemala City Radio Mundial in Spanish 1415 GMT 26 Apr 80

[Distributed by Inter-Central American Radio Organization]

[Text] The body of Dr (Freider Figueroa) was discovered yesterday morning on a country road in Villa de Siquisate in Escuintla Department, some 130 km from the capital.

The body of the physician, kidnapped almost 1 year ago, showed sings of having been cruelly tortured and shot several times. The initially unidentified body was found by peasants who asked police authorities to come to the site.

Relatives of the physician, who was kidnapped several months ago as he was on his way from his residence in San Antonio, Suchitepequez, to the clinic which he headed at Palo Gordo sugar mill, fully identified him.

His wrists whowed signs that he had been tied for a long time and there were signs of cruel torture on different parts of his body.

Relatives of Dr (Freider Figueroa) had turned to various media to ask the kidnappers to return him safely to his home. However, their appeals went unheeded by the criminals.

NICARAGUA

LA PRENSA WORKERS QUIT, SEEK TO FORM NEW PAPER

PA252156 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1800 GMT 25 Apr 80

[Text] Over 200 workers of LA PRENSA newspaper decided during a general assembly today that they will not continue to work for the company. Consequently, the workers decided to establish a new newspaper which will truly respond to the interests of the Nicaraguan people.

After taking a poll of the workers' opinion by a department, the board of directors of the union of LA PRENSA workers called a general meeting at approximately 1100 in which Companero Danilo Aguirre Solis, who was serving as assistant director of the newspaper, addressed those present in the following terms:

[Begin recording] It will be another newspaper, even it is in another site and even if it has another name. We are going to be the true LA PRENSA. [applause]

We will face difficulties, but you can be sure that there are absolute guarantees of stability in your post. There are absolute guarantees that you are going to have a job, that you will be cooperating and receiving your wages.

But we are going to work harder. It is a matter of starting all over again with another newspaper, with a new paper that is LA PRENSA, with another era of LA PRENSA, the true revolutionary era.

This will require more effort, but it will be a beautiful effort. We are going to enjoy working for a newspaper which we can feel truly belongs to the workers.

There is no greater pleasure than that of carrying out a job, of performing an action when you know that you are working for the welfare of our people and, above all, that the job essentially reflects our condition as workers. We are all workers here. We are all from poor backgrounds. We are all from the same class. At this time, the revolution is tacitly saying that everyone must entrench himself in his class. We cannot be traitors to our class. Our class is the working class. No matter how much we have risen intellectually and manually, these are personal efforts which in no way divorce us from our class position. We are workers. We will continue to be workers because the revolution wants workers. It wants nothing else. [end recording]

Further Details

PA262238 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 26 Apr 80

[Text] The announcement of the opening of a new newspaper by the workers who have resigned en masse from LA PRENSA has had a great impact. The consensus is that the new newspaper will enjoy popular support. A newspaper is not made by machines but by the men who work on it, said Alvaro Ramirez Gonzalez, the well-known political leader, when questioned by "Extra [name of newscast].

Our reporters conducted a poll after the announcement of LA PRENSA's workers and the unanimous opinion is that LA PRENSA's [word indistinct] (?readers) will prefer the new newspaper. This is so because the new daily newspaper will preserve the true spirit of LA PRENSA during the time it defended the people. Ramiro Aguirre, Manuel Eugarrios, Luis Hernandez Bustamante, Trinidad Vasquez, (Trejos) and all newsmen who have identified themselves with the people's causes will write for it. The love and enthusiasm of the newspaper's workers, who will also move to the new newspaper, will also be very important. Psychologist Jaime (Ricord) also gave his opinion. He said he is certain readers will prefer the new newspaper.

The new newspaper announced by the workers of LA PRENSA will be born because of the intransigence and inflexibility of the members of the board of directors of that newspaper who steadfastly refused to agree to reinstate Xavier Chamorro as director. Faced with the option of resigning or continuing to work for LA PRENSA, and serving reactionary interests, the workers opted to resign and start a new newspaper which, in the opinion of many persons polled, should be called LA NUEVA PRENSA.

This announcement was made by Danilo Aguirre Solis, assistant director of the newspaper, in a speech that could be termed historic because it marks an extremly important event in Nicaraguan journalism. It signals nothing less than the decline of a newspaper which played a decisive role in the struggle against the Somozist dictatorship and the advent of a new daily newspaper that will become a true continuation of the first one and even respond to the true spirit impressed on it by its martyred director, Pedro Joaquin Chamorro Cardenal.

We are going to work hard. We will endure difficulties and sacrifices but we will overcome, Aguirre said upon announcing the foundation of the new daily newspaper. Let us listen to Aguirre:

[Begin recording] We must be honest. One of the key qualities of anyone wishing to learn how to be a revolutionary is honesty. We [word indistinct] this and are sure that none of us ever thought or is thinking of seizing LA PRENSA. We [words indistinct] in some way in the manner in which LA PRENSA's directors viewed the conflict.

They focused their attacks on Xavier Chamorro, saying that LA PRENSA did not (?have) the independent, pluralist and democratic line it should have. All attempts made at conciliation were aimed precisely at trying to show that this was not true, although we believe that they were making these observations in good faith.

However, events thus far show that they have always clearly understood what independence and pluralism mean to LA PRENSA's directors. They (?want) independence from the state. We felt, too, that this newspaper must be independent from the state. However, we also feel that the newspaper, a communications medium of transcendental importance in a revolutionary process, must also be independent from the minority and antipopular economic groups. They ask for pluralism, pluriclassism. Room has always been given in LA PRENSA to class expressions, even to the minority bourgeois groups left in this country.

The pluralism that has been requested from us up to now--and we have realized this after trying to believe that this was not their view--this pluralism that was sought or is being sought for this newspaper means granting the newspaper's eight columns daily to that antipopular economic minority, distorting reality in Nicaragua, where the working people comprise the majority. [word indistinct] union in this newspaper which, according to its traditions, no room be given to other groups. However, they will have room to the extent that they express Nicaragua's reality. It cannot be possible at this point--after a revolutionary victory in which the people played the largest part and in which the workers shed their blood, the workers and the students--it cannot be possible that LA PRENSA should distort that reality and that a group should deserve more. This group also participated--because one must be honest--with communiques and managerial strikes, and by sending their money abroad. It is not possible, however, that this paper should depict these gentlemen as the leading representatives of the expression of this people.

Are these gentlemen worth more in the streets than the workers centrals, than the centrals and associations of rural workers, than the youths who are carrying out literacy work by the thousands? Is it possible that news about the literacy campaign can be subordinated to a communique from the Higher Council of Private Enterprise or the Nicaraguan Development Institute? This does not correspond to reality. [end recording]

RAMIREZ ADDRESSES RALLY ON ROBELO RESIGNATION

PA280110 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 2326 GMT 26 Apr 80

[Speech by Sergio Ramirez Mercado, member of the junta of the Government of National Reconstruction, at rally held in support of the revolutionary government and the government junta in front of the government palace in Managua, on 26 April--live]

[Excerpts] Companeros, dear Sandinist brothers: I do not know if perhaps you noticed the circumstances under which Robelo abandoned the government junta. [shout of "To the firing squad!" laughter, more shouts]

You remember that a few days earlier, and for reasons which she clearly explained very honestly and without seeking to deceive anyone, Mrs Violeta de Chamorro resigned. Her resignation had nothing to do with Robelo's resignation. [applause] The conflict at the newspaper LA PRENSA also erupted then. Both here and abroad certain interests opposed to the revolution were trying to link this conflict to the Sandinist front and the government, as if the Sandinist front had ordered the seizure of LA PRENSA and kept it from circulating.

In those days, certain minority groups were also stirring up the state council issue, protesting because the Sandinist Front was going to have a majority within the State Council. [shouts of "people's power"]

Then, Robelo, a man who because of his personal experience has developed the ability to make business calculations, [laughter] thought that was the time to resign because that would make the Sandinist Front and the National Reconstruction Government totter. [shouts of "no!"]

So what happened then? What happened was that some people--who a few weeks earlier had met at the Polideportivo Espana to say that the literacy campaign, among other things, constituted a big communist conspiracy--felt happy and began dusting their tuxedos to get into the social clubs that the people have seized forever. [applause]

And the Somozists who are in Miami, the toads [sapos]--who along with the Cuban worms are now known as the guarasapos [water worm; a play on words] [laughter, shouts, applause]--happily began getting their suitcases ready because they thought everything here was crumbling down and it was time to come back. [shouts of "no!"]

Today we read in a paper, or rather we heard in a radio newscast, that in Guatemala, Urcuyo [Francisco Urcuyo, who served briefly as president after Anastasio Somoza's departure] had even brought out his presidential sash thinking that it was time to come back. [shouts of "no!"]

But those calculations, which some people are in the habit of making, lacked a very important element, an essential element: the Nicaraguan people: [shouts, applause]

Those people are so blind that if they are told, or because of the television cameras filming this event they hear that a huge number of representatives of the people of Managua were here today, they would not believe it. They would not believe it because they cannot in any way conceive of the idea that the people may have anything to do with this. They think that in Nicaragua people must first be instructed politically before they can become aware of things. [shouts, applause]

It is for these reasons that those who, inside their caves, plot lies and rumors against the revolution, who meet in their mansions and luxurious neighborhoods to see what they can plot against the revolution and what lie they can spread, began beating on their chests, rending their clothing and protesting when they heard that the Sandinist Front was going to have a majority within the State Council.

The government of national reconstruction continues moving ahead, fulfilling the program imposed, or rather the program that the people imposed on 19 July 1979. Those who thought that through sleight of hand or forceful maneuvers they would cause splits in the revolution, endanger the revolution, make people abroad no longer believe in this revolution and would make them withdraw the economic support we have been receiving for the reconstruction, will be buried by history. This will happen tomorrow, or at the latest the day after, and only the people will remain alive! [applause]

Hail the Sandinist National Liberation Front! [shouts of "hail!"] Hail the unity of the Nicaraguan people! [shouts of "hail!"] Hail the council of state! [shouts of "hail!"] Free fatherland! [shouts of "or death!"] [applause]

RAMIREZ DISCUSSES ROBELO, CHAMORRO REPLACEMENTS

PA261938 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1800 GMT 26 Apr 80

[Text] Speaking to a group of European and U.S. newsmen who are visiting our country at the invitation of the Inter-American Development Bank [IDB], Dr Sergio Ramirez, member of the junta of the Government of National Reconstruction, yesterday said the vacancies left by Violeta de Chamorro and Alfonso Robelo, who resigned their posts in the government junta, will be filled by new members who, it is expected, will represent the social sectors of the resigning officials.

The IDB invited these newsmen, who represent the media of France, Great Britain, Switzerland, Germany, Denmark and the United States, to take note of the programs this institution is developing in Nicaragua.

The resignation of Alfonso Robelo does not affect the political program of alliance with the business sectors of the nation, which is what determines the mixed economic system our Sandinist popular revolution has implemented, said Dr Sergio Ramirez, in reply to the questions of the visiting newsmen.

BORGE INTERVIEWED ON FSLN ROLE ON STATE COUNCIL

PA251526 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 20 Apr 80 p 7

[Excerpt] Managua (ANN)--In an interview with the New Nicaragua News Agency [ANN], Nicaragua's interior minister discussed the armed forces' role in the State Council and Nicaragua's noninvolvement in El Salvador. He also voiced concern over U.S. military maneuvers in the Caribbean.

Here is what Comdr Tomas Borge, member of the Sandinist Front National Directorate, said:

[Question] Commander Borge, in a statement to ANN, Dr Sergio Ramirez Mercado, member of the government junta, said that the Sandinist peoples army should be represented in the State Council. What do you think of that?

[Answer] I think the armed forces should be represented in the State Council since they are the backbone of the forces which toppled the Somoza tyranny. They are a fundamental force. It would be illogical, inconsistent and contrary to objective reality to exclude the people's armed forces from the state council. All forces should be represented in it according to the correlation of forces existing in Nicaragua. The Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN) is a very large organization from the standpoint of mass support and its real strength. However, the FSLN is not overly represented in the State Council. This seems right to us because it is the only way for the council to include representatives of various political forces and discuss national problems. Furthermore, the council should serve two purposes: It should be a way to air the views of the masses so they can in some way be involved in state decisionmaking, and so the voice of the Nicaraguan people can be heard. Workers, peasants, students, priests, private interests and other forces will be represented there. The mass of the people, the Sandinist Defense Committees, will be represented in it. Naturally, our revolutionary armed forces should also be represented in it and they will be.

GRANMA REBUTS U.S. CHARGES OF UNILATERAL ACTION

FL251145 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1045 GMT 25 Apr 80

[Text] The daily GRANMA, official organ of our party, today publishes a report of the French News Agency, AFP, which states: The illegal flow of Cuban refugees to the United States is the result of a unilateral action of the Cuban Government aimed at diverting attention from its internal problems, according to a statement of the State Department in Washington. Tom Reston, one of the State Department spokesmen, on the other hand left open the possibility of organizing an airlift to put end to the crisis of thousands of Cubans who take to the sea in makeshift vessels to reach the U.S. coasts.

The AFP report which GRANMA publishes under the title: 'Hysterical Yankee Statements and Maneuvers,' goes on to say: The spokesman emphasized, however, that such an eventuality is subject to prior consultations by the U.S. Government with other countries interested in the problem, including Cuba, and with various international organizations. It is preferable, Reston added, that the Cuban Government allow the international community to tackle this problem in a rational and organized manner.

After recalling that GRANMA yesterday rejected statements made by this same Yankee spokesman who accused the Cuban Government of having violated an alleged agreement with Peru and Costa Rica on the departure of refugees in the Peruvian Embassy, AFP adds: Asked about this denial, Reston replied that based on what has been stated publicly and privately by Cuban authorities, we understand that they have asserted their willingness to cooperate in the organization of a rational evacuation of the refugees.

The Yankee State Department spokesman then asserted: This problem has its origins in Cuba. It is a Cuban problem resulting from the internal problems that exist in that country.

The AFP report adds that well-informed sources have stressed that the decision of the Cuban Government to authorize departures from the country through the illegal sealift mounted between Cuba and the Florida coasts has unleashed a boat people [rendered in English] crisis which places the U.S. administration in an embarrassing position. The government of President Carter in fact is facing the dilemma of the new invasion of Cuban exiles whose population in the United States already amounts to almost 1 million persons, or applying the provisions of the law which prohibits illegal entries, stresses AFP.

The French agency indicates that Tom Reston emphasized that the United States is facing this problem while, at the same time, keeping in mind the human drama it poses and the need to respect the laws in force. We have the right to determine who can enter this country, he said.

The U.S. spokesman announced that instructions had been sent to Florida Coast Guard authorities to warn by radio the owners and captains of boats who are transporting refugees about the legal consequences of their action. He said that each boat owner will be fined $1,000 for each refugee he transports and his boat will be confiscated until the fine is paid.

After noting that it is known that in many cases the Cubans who leave their country by this means pay up to $5,000 to the boat owners or captains for each passenger, the U.S. is facing a situation whose magnitude changes all the time and whose exact scope is not known. The spokesman said that some 700 Cuban already have entered the United States and that so far no decision has been made on what to do about them.

Another spokesman, Jody Powell in the White House, also declared that it is a situation which changes quickly and that not only the fate of 10,000 Cubans who took refuge in the Peruvian Embassy is in play, but that of tens of thousands ready to take to the sea to go to the United States.

AFP adds in its report that in 1965 the United States mounted an airlift which transported about 250,000 Cubans and that the State Department has left open the possibility of organizing a similar airlift to put an end to the illegal flow of Cuban refugees. GRANMA then publishes a note in which it states that it is another shameless lie of the United States to say that the Mariel-Florida sealift is a unilateral action on the part of Cuba. This [the sealift] was nothing more than an intelligent response of Cuban residents in the United States to the hypocritical policy of that country, it asserts.

Why do they admit, asks GRANMA, those who enter by force, hijacking vessels with hostages and not the ones who want to enter peacefully? And GRANMA adds: Actually, there is an internal problem in Cuba and it is how to prevent the people from killing the antisocial elements. Cuba simply has limited itself to withdrawing the guard from the Florida peninsula. The airlift about which they now speak as an alleged solution is somewhat too late to resolve the problem. The disorder about which they speak is the exclusive fault of the U.S. Government. Everything here is done in an orderly manner, GRANMA concludes.

Another report on the subject indicates that 575 antisocial elements yesterday left for the United States. And at the close of the GRANMA edition, there were 349 vessels from the United States at the Mariel port.

A small plane also arrived yesterday at the Rancho Boyeros Airport to pick up lumpen and relatives. They were told that they could do it through the Varadero Airport by giving prior notice and in an orderly manner.

Meanwhile, our people throughout the country continue to express their repudiation of the antisocial elements who have taken refuge in the Peruvian Embassy asking to leave the country and of the threatening maneuvers announced by the United States to take place around Cuba. With absolute conviction and firmness, the working people and their combatants reaffirm: More vigilant than ever and ready for whatever comes.

SMALL PLANE ARRIVES TO PICK UP REFUGEES, RELATIVES

PA251928 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 25 Apr 80

[Text] A small plane arrived at the Jose Marti International Airport in Havana to pick up some refugees and their relatives. The Cuban authorities advised them that they can leave the country in an orderly manner after receiving notice from the Varadero Airport in Matanzas, some 125 km east of Havana.

Meanwhile, hundreds of vessels chartered by the Cuban community abroad are waiting at Mariel airport and the surrounding area to take to the United States any person who wants to emigrate.

Over 700 Leave

FL261321 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1045 GMT 26 Apr 80

[Text] A report from the port of Mariel announces that yesterday 722 antisocial persons left the port for the United States and that 958 vessels which came from the United States are still there. Mariel, the report adds, is a forest of masts. Next to this, fishing swordfish is child's play.

Thirty-two aircraft have requested permission to pick up antisocial persons and relatives, the note published in today's GRANMA adds. They have been told to wait until the requests made by the vessels at Mariel have been met. This has placed a great workload on the immigration offices.

The Camarioca air service will have to remain as a reserve, GRANMA states. There can be no greater disrespect for the U.S. Government's orders and threats than this action by Cubans residing in the United States.

The problem of the Cuban authorities now is to service and accommodate the crews of the fleet during their stay here. A hotel in Mariel, the Salado Beach, and other facilities are at the service of the crewmembers who wish to lodge themselves comfortably without access to the city while they wait for the paperwork. Our tourist enterprises, the note states, are pleased with the trade going on with the vessels. The blockade does not exist there. There is a great demand for Havana Club rum and other Cuban products.

The GRANMA note adds that everybody agrees that the Bacardi being sold in the United States is no good. These events demonstrate once more the great confidence that everybody has in the guarantees and seriousness of the Cuban revolution. Now, the note adds, we will have to be given some credit in the permits for Cubans wanting to enter the United States. Let them receive those who travel peacefully and with Cuba's authorization and not those who do it by force and violation of our laws.

There can be no more demagogy and dirty propaganda, the daily adds. Imperialism's heroes are here no more. We will no longer patrol the Florida coast. We honorably reaffirm that the revolution and socialism are the work of free men.

It was learned that on 23, 24 and 25 April 390 antisocial persons left the Peruvian Embassy and went to their homes. Some 800 are left in the embassy. The balloon has burst, GRANMA states. Passport and permanent safe-conducts will be granted not only to the antisocial persons lodged in the Peruvian Embassy but to any other antisocial persons who request it. They are all dissidents. They all have the same rights. Any type of discrimination would be unjust and unconstitutional.

Over 1,000 Boats Anchored

PA271749 Havana International Service in Spanish 1630 GMT 27 Apr 80

[Text] The newspaper GRANMA published in its section "Noticias de Mariel" the report that 1,349 boats were at anchor yesterday at this western Cuban port to pick up those persons wishing to emigrate to the United States.

CASTRO SENDS SOLIDARITY MESSAGE TO KHOMEYNI

FL251210 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1045 GMT 25 Apr 80

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, president of the Council of State and government, has sent a message to Ayatollah Khomeyni, leader of the Islamic revolution of Iran.

On behalf of the people and revolutionary Government of Cuba, says the message, I wish to convey to you our fraternal solidarity at this time when new and grave threats of armed aggression are being made by the Yankee imperialists against the Iranian revolution. In the face of this threat, it adds, you and your people can count on the sympathy and support of the Cuban revolution which over more than 20 years has suffered the criminal blockade and acts of aggression of the U.S. Government and which currently is threatened by war and invasion maneuvers.

Fidel's message to Iranian leader Ayatollah Khomeyni concludes: I take this opportunity to reiterate to you my highest consideration. [Signed Fidel Castro Ruz, president of the Council of State and revolutionary Government of the Republic of Cuba.

COMMENTARY ASSAILS U.S. MILITARY ACTION IN IRAN

FL260251 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 26 Apr 80

[Miguel Rivero commentary]

[Text] Never before has it been more certain that mankind's destiny today is in the hands of an impulsive and adventurous man named James Carter. The unsuccessful military attempt conducted today in the early morning hours to set free the U.S. hostages in Tehran is a clear demonstration of the wantonness of the imperialist policy which could lead the world to a war of unpredictable consequences. The White House policy is based on the electoral seesaw of its resident, President James Carter.

It is not a coincidence that this brash military operation has taken place just 3 days after Carter's defeat in the state of Pennsylvania. I would like to refer to an editorial by a very influential daily of that U.S. state, the PENNSYLVANIA INQUIRER, which was published under the title "Mr Carter is imprudently playing with power." On 19 April the daily noted: Throughout history there have been many reasons for waging war but, among those circumstances, political ambitions or the future of one man have never been included. This was a sensible warning in connection with something that could be clearly discerned from a statement Carter himself made on 17 April when he threatened to use military force against the Iranian people.

Is it just that mankind's destiny is at the will of a mentally unbalanced individual who acts recklessly and without consultations? In this connection, it would be proper to quote a portion of the speech made by PCC Second Secretary Raul Castro on 29 March. No one in the revolutionary field, Raul said, expects that imperialism will abandon the defense of its positions. No one expects that the U.S. leaders will cease to be what they are. What we do have the right to demand, the Cuban leader added, is a greater sense of responsibility, of realism, and we base ourselves on statements made last year by high-ranking officials in Washington. I quote Raul: The United States cannot dictate the course of events because the era when it imposed its will on the world, militarily or through economic pressure, is long gone. That ends the statement made by Raul.

Evidently, this military action in Iran demonstrates that realism and responsibility are attributes which have disappeared from the White House. If Carter was attempting to gain popularity by rescuing the hostages, what he has won can be summed up in a Spanish saying which clearly describes cases such as this: The gun backfired. With this reckless action, the U.S. President has demonstrated that he places his personal aspirations above mankind's destiny. This military operation is a demonstration of the accuracy of Raul Castro's statement when he pointed out that those who are trying to stop the forces of social progress, independence, national liberation, social justice and peace by turning away from cooperation to confrontation have gained control in the present U.S. administration.

Another aspect in this matter is that this military operation launched by Carter serves to demonstrate to the world and, especially, to the Iranian people who is their real enemy, who is threatening world peace and from where come the adventurous actions which could lead mankind to a holocaust. Those who have used the scarecrow of the Soviet threat should ponder this. It is the old story of hiding the principal enemy by diverting public attention toward objectives which only benefit the imperialists.

This operation, which President Carter cynically called humanitarian, could have had incalculable consequences and long-term results. Besides, would the students guarding the hostages have surrendered peacefully to the Marines and CIA agents sent by Carter? Is it not more realistic to expect that these students would have been humanitarily massacred by the commandos sent by the imperialists? What would have been the reaction of the Iranian people and their friends as a result of this shameful military intervention? What would have been the reaction of the Arab nations supporting the Iranian revolution?

All these questions are directed at the U.S. imperialists who play war and armed interventions as if we still were living in the era when they tried to dictate to everybody. But there is another aspect which is very interesting. Due to this unsuccessful military operation, the U.S. President now finds himself in a blind alley. This overwhelms him with frustration and desperation. That is why now, as never before, it is necessary that all progressive men mobilize to check the new and eventual military actions of the U.S. administration in the Persian Gulf or anywhere else.

Last 8 March Cuban President Fidel Castro issued the following warning: Recently, Fidel noted, Carter's principal adviser made a public statement to the effect that if there was any problem anywhere in the world, they would assume the right of choosing the area most convenient for their response. He said it in such a way that all Washington observers inferred that he was referring to Cuba and certainly no one in the U.S. Government denied it. It was a clear threat against our country. In other words, if there were a conflict in the Persian Gulf, they could respond with an attack on us.

In this context, perhaps it is not a mere guess to assert that the timing of the announced U.S. maneuvers in the Caribbean, Solid Shield 80, is not pure coincidence but is closely tied to the entire military deployment in the Persian Gulf and the adventurous U.S. military escalation throughout the world.

As denounced by some members of the press, the military operation against the U.S. Embassy in Tehran did not have as its only objective the rescue of the hostages. It was also aimed at overthrowing the revolutionary government headed by Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni. The Cuban people and their leaders, without losing any sleep, watch all these adventurous steps being taken by the U.S. imperialists.

Precisely a few hours before it was announced that the military attempt against Iran had failed, Cuban President Fidel Castro said in a message to Khomeyni that he could count on the support and sympathy of the Cuban revolution which, over a period of more than 20 years, has endured a criminal blockade and the aggressions of the U.S. Government and which currently is being threatened by war and invasion maneuvers.

Cuba is calm, firm and alert. It could not be any other way 90 miles away from U.S. imperialism, which has become a cruel, blind, adventurous and decadent enemy. The Cubans today express their solidarity with the Iranian people in the certainty that the principal lesson derived from this episode is that it was a desperate move by those who have been unable and will never be able to stop the forces of social progress from emerging in the Persian Gulf, Grenada, Nicaragua or Ethiopia. One day Carter will realize that the days when imperialism could impose its will on the peoples are gone forever.

BRIEFS

ALEJO CARPENTIER DIES--World famous Cuban writer Alejo Carpentier died Thursday night at his residence in Paris. He was 75. At the time of his death, Carpentier was cultural attache to the Cuban Embassy in France and a deputy to the Cuban National People's Power Assembly. [Excerpt] [Havana Voice of Cuba in English to North America and the Caribbean 0500 GMT 25 Apr 80 FL]